

From: Jeremy Heath
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 9:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Microsofts historic action against competitors and refusal to act to the intent of the 1995 Consent Decree shows that this company will act strongly against any attempts to regulate the way it does business. I think that the proposed settlement is a bad idea.

I disagree with the way the proposed remedy treats non-commercial concerns.

The proposed remedy exclude information sharing with companies or entities that are not in business to make money. Some of these non-profit entities include such well used projects as: Apache Web Server, Linux Operating Systems and the Java Programming language. These are only a few of competitors which Microsoft will be able to strangle by with-holding information.

I would like to see a remedy that would force Microsoft to allow anyone to freely download the APIs and specification that allow any outside program to inter-operate with any Microsoft program (including Windows, Media Player and the Office products). The penalties should be stiff and well documented if Microsoft attempts circumvent these remedies.

I am encouraged by the Technical Committee that will observe Microsoft's business practices and encourage Microsoft to abide by the indent of the remedy. This board will force Microsoft to "play fair" by making sure that Microsoft does no pollute open standards by adding their own extensions. But I believe that the board should be established for more that its current proposed 5 years; I see 50 years as a better length.

I would like to see Microsoft allow any non-Microsoft software to be distributed on its install CDs or DVDs. I can see a company petition the outside board of expert to be included on the install CD as a way to encourage competition and allow for the greatest choice the the consumer. An unbundled version of Windows (at a cheaper price) as recommended by the dissenting nine Attorney Generals is good start, but resellers should be able to bundle what-ever they think their customer would want to use. Choice to the consumer is what this is all about; expediency should not out-weigh freedom of choice.

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